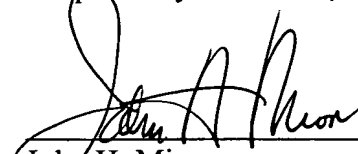


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**REMARKS**

The above amendments have been made to eliminate all multiple dependent claims (both proper and improper), thereby both eliminating the need for a multiple dependent claim fee and ensuring examination of all claims on the merits in the first Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Mion", is written over a horizontal line.

John H. Mion  
Registration No. 18,879

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Date: June 22, 2005